



Connecticut Association
of Theatre Owners

**Written Testimony of
Doug Murdoch, Executive Director, CATO**

**In Opposition to Raised Bill No. 121:
An Act Repealing Certain Statutes Related to Moving Pictures**

**Before
The Committee on Public Safety and Security
March 1, 2016**

On behalf of CATO (Connecticut Association of Theatre Owners), an association representing Movie Theatres throughout Connecticut, we respectfully submit these written comments regarding Bill No. 121.

As the world of business and relevant law evolves, so too does the exhibition of movies. While it is our understanding that this bill would remove certain obsolete references to moving pictures and film that may no longer be necessary in a digital environment, we are uncertain as to what the unintended impact of repealing the statutes will have on our general business practices. That said, if antiquated statutes are simply being removed and/or re-titled, we would recommend Section 29-128b outlined under Section 2 of the bill be repealed in its entirety as well. This section references the display of the movie industry's voluntary ratings systems in physical areas such as a marquee and/or sign or poster located on the exterior of a venue showing movies. Our position is based on the following:

- We support the MPAA's opposition to any reference of the voluntary ratings system within the Connecticut General Statutes.
- The voluntary ratings also have evolved, and the current reference in the statute is not even up to date with all the current ratings such as PG-13 and NC-17.
- Theatre buildings have changed, and many do not have exterior marquees and/or cases to display film titles and/or posters.
- Movie ratings are readily available from numerous sources including but not limited to newspaper ads, movie trailers, TV advertising spots, websites, ticket kiosks and box offices.

For these reasons, we respectfully request that Bill 121 include the full repeal of Section 29-128b.

Connecticut Association of Theatre Owners, Incorporated

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